

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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USEC BRUSSELS

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SP DA

SUBJ: SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO DENMARK

REF: COPENHAGEN 0748

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SUMMARY: SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER, IN SMOOTH VISIT TO

COPENHAGEN, OUTLINED PLANS FOR CREATION OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN SPAIN AND HOPES FOR SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN EEC AND NATO. HE SAID COMMUNIST PARTY WOULD NOT BE LEGALIZED AND SOUGHT DANISH PATIENCE WITH SPANISH PROCESS. DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER SAID DANES WOULD WATCH SPANISH MOVES WITH CARE. END SUMMARY.

1) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON (MARCH 4), SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER AREILZA CHARACTERIZED IN HIS OWN WORDS HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE DANES AS VERY OPENHEARTED, FRIENDLY AND CORRECT. AREILZA FRANKLY SAID THAT HE HAD COME TO DENMARK TO WIN DANISH UNDERSTANDING AND PATIENCE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMOCRATIC REFORMS IN SPAIN. IN NOW-FAMILIAR TERMS, HE OUTLINED THE AGENDA FOR SPANISH MOVES TOWARD DEMOCRACY. HE SAID THERE WOULD BE A REFERENDUM ON THE CONSTITUTION IN THE SPRING OF 1976, A NATIONAL TRADE UNION CONGRESS IN THE SAME YEAR, AND ELECTIONS TO PARLIAMENT IN THE SPRING OF 1977. HE EXPECTED THAT THE NEWLY-ELECTED PARLIAMENT COULD BEGIN TO WORK IN JUNE OR JULY OF THE SAME YEAR. AREILZA SAID THAT THERE WERE PRESENTLY 699 PRISONERS IN SPAIN AND THAT ALL BUT 110 WOULD BE RELEASED THIS YEAR. THOSE WHO WOULD REMAIN IN JAIL WERE MURDERERS, TERRORISTS AND COMMON CRIMINALS WHO WOULD BE IMPRISONED IN ANY COUNTRY.

2) AREILZA SAID HE DID NOT COME TO PRESENT AN ARGUMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY BUT THAT HE EXPECTED THAT SPAIN WOULD APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE EEC AND NATO AROUND 1980. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE THAT PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRACY WAS A PRE-CONDITION FOR SPAIN'S ADMISSION TO THESE BODIES. AREILZA STATED BLUNTLY THAT POLITICAL PARTY RECOGNITION WOULD BE EXTENDED SOON TO ALL PARTIES EXCEPT THE COMMUNISTS WHO, BECAUSE OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT OF VIOLENCE, WOULD NOT NOW BE GRANTED LEGAL PERSONALITY.

3) AREILZA, WHO CHARACTERIZED HIMSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE "DEMOCRATIC, CIVILIZED RIGHT", TOLD THE PRESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT HIS VISIT HAD SERVED TO CLARIFY SPANISH-DANISH RELATIONS AND REMOVE SOME OF THE OBSTACLES TO CLOSER TIES. HE STATED THAT PREJUDICES STILL EXISTED ON BOTH SIDES AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO WORK TO ELIMINATE THEM. HE ALSO STATED THAT THE TERRORIST LAW AND THE LAW CONTROLLING MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN SPAIN WOULD SOON BE CHANGED.

4) ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, FOREIGN MINISTER K B
ANDERSEN EXPRESSED STATISFACTION WITH THE VISIT AND
TOLD AREILZA THAT DENMARK WOULD CAREFULLY FOLLOW STEPS
TAKEN BY THE SPANISH GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT THE
SCENARIO WHICH HAD BEEN OUTLINED FOR THE DEMOCRATIZATION
OF SPANISH SOCIETY.

5) COMMENT: DEMONSTRATION AT U.S. EMBASSY FORESEEN IN REFTTEL
DID NOT MATERIZLIZE, ALTHOUGH MARCHERS DID GO TO SPANISH EMBASSY
AND SOME TO HOTEL WHERE AREILZA STAYED. AREILZA HAD
ALREADY DEPARTED AND DEMONSTRATORS WERE RECEIVED THERE
BY SPANISH EMBASSY OFFICIAL.
DEAN

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